(TPDS) the estimated number of families living below the poverty line, based on the poverty estimates of the Planning Commission (1993-94) and the projected population of the Registrar General of India as on 1.3.2000, for Punjab is 4.68 lakh (including Antyodaya families). Allocation of foodgrains to Punjab is being made for all the estimated number of 4.68 lakh BPL families.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Status of sugar mills in Bihar

†2083. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the status of sugar mills in Bihar;

(b) the number of total mills in public sector and cooperative sector and the status of their production;

(c) the scheme of Government for revival of closed sugar mills in Bihar; and

(d) the loss suffered by farmers as well as loss of production of sugar as results of sickness and closure of sugar mills in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) There are no sugar mills in the Co-operative Sector in Bihar. None of the 15 public sector mills in Bihar worked in 2004-05 sugar season. Of the 13 private sector sugar mills, 4 worked in 2004-05 sugar season producing 2.59 lakh MTs of sugar.

(c) It is the responsibility of the entrepreneur to take steps to reopen/ revive the closed sugar mills.

(d) Sugar Mills remain closed or become sick from time to time for a variety of factors, such as, inadequate cane availability, uneconomical size, old age, bad condition of plant and machinery, technical and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

managerial incompetence etc. As such, it is not possible to indicate the loss suffered by farmers or the loss of production of sugar.

New Sugar Mills in Uttar Pradesh

†2084. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to set up new sugar mills in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the number of new sugar mills proposed to be set up in current financial year in the State;

(c) whether some sugar mills already set up in the State have become sick;

(d) if so, since when and the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken for their revival?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) The Central Government do not set up sugar mills in any part of the Country. The sugar industry has been delicensed with effect from 11.09.98. The entrepreneurs are free to set up sugar mills as per techno-economic viability of their project maintaining a distance of 15 Kms. from the existing sugar factories;

(c) and (d) Sugar Mills remain closed or become sick from time to time for variety of factors, such as, inadequate cane availability, uneconomical size, old age, bad condition of plant and machinery, technical and managerial incompetence etc.

(e) It is responsibility of the entrepreneurs to take steps to reopen/ revive the closed sugar mils. The sick mills belonging to private and public sectors are covered under the provisions of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 (SICA). Such sugar mills are required to make reference to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) whenever their accumulated losses become equal to or more than the net worth. If the rehabilitation schemes sanctioned

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.